

The REFERT

VOL. 1.

KEYSER, W. VA., NOVEMBER 22, 1905.

No. 1

Our Paper—The "Refert."

The Literary societies of the Keyser Preparatory School came together in their hall on Tuesday, Oct. 17, in a special meeting called by the members of each society. At the meeting the matter of establishing a school paper was discussed. No definite steps were taken but the matter was put off until the next regular meeting. When the time for transacting business came, it was so late that another special meeting was arranged for the following Tuesday. At this meeting the following editors were elected:

From the Reynolds society—Chas. Ritchie, Literary editor. Homer Hott, Business manager.

From the Davis society—Fred R. Koelz, Literary editor; Joe Grubb Business manager. For a committee on selecting a name for the paper, the chairman appointed Misses Nell Johnson, Inez McNeill and Sadie Friend. The "Refert" was the name chosen by the committee. Thus on Tuesday Oct. 24, 1905, the "Refert" came into existence.

Now we, the editors of the "Refert," send forth the first issue of our paper. We hope the readers of this small sheet will be impressed with the results of our efforts. If any errors are found we hope that they will not be censured too severely but that we may kindly be shown our faults and encouraged.

And now, in sending out the "Refert" we wish to thank our friends, both within and without the school, and the business men of our town who have done much to make the paper a possibility. We hope that the "Refert" will be a fair representation of our school and its students. We solicit the further aid of any who may wish to extend it. We hope to increase the size of the paper in the near future and, that we may do this, we ask all whom this issue reaches to subscribe. We promise to keep you in close touch with the school through the pages of our paper.

Again, we thank all who have in any way assisted us in our work
THE EDITORS.



A View of the Preparatory Building

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The REFERENT

Publish-d by
The Literary Societies of the Keyser Preparatory School

PRESS OF THE MOUNTAIN ECHO, KEYSER, W. VA.

Issued Third Wednesday in each School Month

Literary Editors—Chas. Ritchie, Fred Koelz
Business Managers—Joe Grubb, Homer Hott

SUBSCRIPTION, 25 CENTS A SCHOOL YEAR

In our next issue will be printed the first of an epic poem of the "Prep", entitled the "Zekiad." It is written by students. Subscribe for the paper and read it.



We would like to exchange with other school papers. Write to the business managers.



Friday night, November 10, after "Lit." Prof. Sanders, assisted by Prof. Miller and Bert Rolls, gave an exhibition of his new stereopticon machine in the Auditorium, with the Senior Class as an audience. It is understood that the three above named gentlemen will resign their positions in the "Prep" and start out on the road in the near future. The editors join the student body in wishing the company great success.



Prof. Horn—"Can any one tell me the grammatical error in to-day's lesson in 'Sir Roger?'"

Little Warry (quickly raising his hand)—"Yes, Professor, I can." But there was no error.



Emily in the Latin class,
Sweater on the stair.
Soon the gaudy sweater is
A-flying through the air.
Kids begin to giggle,
Sanders looks offended.
Emily picks the sweater up
And thus the tale is ended.



Who said that Prof. Horn and Mrs. Menefee are "engaged" in teaching at the "Prep.?"



A very spirited debate came off in Latin 7 class Tuesday morning, Nov. 21. The participants were:

Affirmative

Negative

Miss Hattie Coffroth,

Prof. Anderson,

Prof. David Y. Comstock,

"The Old Monk."

Question—Resolved, That "fusus" means "stretched out." The judge was "Dutchy," who decided on the negative side.

MUTUAL BENEFIT COLUMN

Will some one please tell me what is wrong with my front gate?—"Bertha Burke's Pa."

(Doubtless Epley can furnish the desired information.)

I would be grateful to any reader who would furnish me the address of a reliable anti-fat medicine.

PROF. HORN.

Will some one please comb my hair while I teach shorthand?

PROF. MILLER.

Will some one kindly put a new strap on my shoe for me to play with in French class? I pulled the old one off trying to answer a question the other day.

"BROWNY" CLARK.

Locals

Nov. 10, 11, 12.

Sadie Friend visited Mt. Lake from Friday until Monday.

The Senior Class held a meeting Friday night after "Lit." Two new members, Chester Clark and Warren Hanna, were initiated.

Warner Cunningham and Joe Spicer spent from Friday until Monday at the home of the latter in Cumberland, Md.

Herbert White and J. C. Epley were at their homes in Terra Alta from Friday until Monday.

Mr. D. C. Harper, a former student, was in town Saturday. He is teaching school this winter.

Miss Inez McNeill has returned to school after being confined to her room for a week with a bad attack of mumps. Laura Lauck also had them for a week.

Mr. O. E. Corder was out of school a few days with tonsillitis.

The "Ouija" club was organized Friday night, Nov. 18, after "Lit." Those belonging to it are Emily Coffroth, Laura Lauck, Nell Johnson, Grace Kight, Hattie Wilson, Sadie Friend, Joe Grubb, Clyde McDowell, Ernest Pifer, Warner Cunningham, Ralph Bush and Fred Koelz.

Mr. Roy Babb is confined to his room by sickness.

The Junior Class was organized Monday, Nov. 20, at 3:30, in Prof. Haught's class room. The following officers were elected: President, Lonnie Thompson; vice-president, Chas. Arnold; secretary, Helen Babb; treasurer, Inez McNeill. Prof. Haught gave them a very helpful talk, after which the meeting adjourned.

The school grounds are being beautified this fall. Several rows of silver maple trees have been set out around the building and driveways. Rhododendron and other shrubs are being planted.

The Passing of the Stage Coach

The days of the stage coach are numbered. While formerly this was the only mode of travel, now it is used only in rural districts to which railroads have not yet penetrated.

The stage coach of colonial times, which was very different from the one of to-day, was little better than a huge covered box mounted on springs, and had great clumsy wheels. The top was upheld by ten posts which rose from the body of the vehicle. From this were hung curtains of leather to be rolled up when the day was fine and let down when it was rainy and cold. Fourteen pounds of luggage was allowed to be carried free by each passenger. But under no circumstances would he be permitted to take on the journey more than one hundred and fifty pounds. As this amount taken by each person would make a very heavy load it was often necessary to attach from four to eight horses to the coach. If the trip was a long one these horses would be exchanged for fresh ones several times before the end of the journey.

Sometimes when the roads were rough and muddy the passengers would be invited to get out and push. With long poles they would pry the wagon out of the mud, thus earning their way as well as paying for it. Then they would often be put down late at night at some wayside inn, cramped and weary after a long and tiresome ride of perhaps forty miles.

But while riding in stage coach was disagreeable in some respects still it had its pleasures. The drivers were generally kind, jolly men, who did everything possible to assure the comfort of their passengers. Then the people of that day were for the most part hospitable and friendly. Before the long ride was over they would be conversing freely with one another. Even the most sulky could not resist the friendly advances of the others when brought in such close contact with them. Irving, in his Sketch Book, gives us an excellent account of one of these pleasant rides in a stage coach.

Along with the coach, many other customs of Colonial days have passed into oblivion. And we must be content to read about them in the many interesting

books which portray the lives and manners of the people of that period. Although our forefathers seem to have been care free, and as we read about them we sometimes regret that we have not experienced their modes of living, yet their condition was by no means as happy as ours. They had government of the people, but it was not by the people nor for the people. The right to vote was greatly restricted. The voter must have an estate worth a certain sum or an annual income of so many dollars. If he wished to hold office, more property or money was required. And besides this there were certain religious restrictions. Then men worked harder and for less money than at this time. Thirty cents a day for unskilled labor was thought high wages.

With the invention of the steam locomotive, electric car and steamboat, which are very improved modes of travel, have come other inventions, customs and conditions, making our country to-day very different from what it was in the days of the stage coach. What a strange place one of our ancestors would think this if he could come back and walk along the streets of some of our great cities. He would no doubt gaze with amazement at the tall buildings twenty stories high, and gas jets and electric lights, the automobiles, the large factories, and other numerous modern improvements. In the windows of the shops would be scores of articles familiar enough to us, but so unknown to him that he could not even name them. Then if he wished to vote he would find that he had no such restrictions as in the olden times. The few imposed would be only those necessary for the welfare of the people. And if he should ask for work in one of the new factories he would be surprised at the wages he, an unskilled laborer, could command.

Thus we see that with the passing of the stage-coach has gone the simpler mode of living, but in its stead we have many improved conditions which help the country in its rapid race with Time.

BY SADIE FRIEND.



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